

a sheet folding device configured to fold the sheet conveyed by the receiving device in two at a center portion thereof in a direction the sheet is conveyed so as to be a folded sheet and convey the folded sheet with the folded portion thereof being a leading edge of the folded sheet;

a jogging device including a jogging table, configured to receive and jog the folded sheet, conveyed by the sheet folding device, one after another, so as to be stacked into a stack of folded sheets on the jogging table;

a binding device configured to bind the stack of folded sheets stacked on the jogging table at an edge portion of the stack of folded sheets at the side where the folded portion of each folded sheet of the stack of folded sheets is located, while the stack of folded sheets are on the jogging table; and

a discharging device configured to discharge the bound stack of folded sheets.

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20. (Twice Amended) A sheet folding and jogging apparatus, comprising:

a receiving device configured to receive a sheet from outside and convey the sheet;

a sheet folding device configured to fold the sheet conveyed by the receiving device in two at a center portion thereof in a direction the sheet is conveyed so as to be a folded sheet and convey the folded sheet with the folded portion thereof being a leading edge of the folded sheet;

a jogging device including a jogging table, configured to receive and jog the folded sheet, conveyed by the sheet folding device, one after another, so as to be stacked into a stack of folded

sheets on the jogging table; and

a leading edge stopping device configured to stop the folded sheet at the folded portion leading edge so that the folded sheet is jogged with respect to the folded portion leading edge thereof

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30. (Amended) An image forming and binding system, comprising:

an image formation controller configured to generate and transmit image or document data with page and sheet size information and printing and binding instructions thereof; and

an image forming apparatus configured to form images of the image or document data received from the image formation controller on both sides of a sheet according to the page and sheet size information and the printing and binding instructions and discharge the sheet,

wherein the image forming apparatus forms a second page image and a third page image of images of four pages of the image or document data on a first side of the sheet, which upwardly faces when the sheet is exited from the image forming apparatus, with the second page image at a leading edge side of the sheet in a direction the sheet is conveyed, and a first page image and a fourth page image of the images of four pages on a second side of the sheet, which downwardly faces when the sheet is exited from the image forming apparatus, with the first page image at the leading edge side of the sheet in the direction the sheet is conveyed, and

wherein the image formation controller controls the image forming apparatus to form the images of the image or document data starting from last four pages of the image or document data, the system further including,

a binding apparatus including,

a controller to control an operation of the binding apparatus, the controller receiving the sheet size information and the binding instruction from the image formation controller,

a receiving device configured to receive the sheet discharged by the image forming apparatus and convey the sheet;

a sheet folding device configured to fold the sheet conveyed by the receiving device in two at a center portion thereon in the direction the sheet is conveyed according to the sheet size information and convey the folded sheet;

a jogging device including a jogging table, configured to receive and jog the folded sheet, conveyed by the sheet folding device, one after another, so as to be stacked into a stack of folded sheets on the jogging table according to the sheet size information;

a binding configured to bind the stack of folded sheets stacked on the jogging table at an edge portion of the stack of folded sheets at the side where the folded portion of each folded sheet of the stack of folded sheets is located according to the binding instruction, while the stack of folded sheets are on the jogging table; and

a discharging device configured to discharge the bound stack of folded sheets.

31. (Amended) A binding apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving a sheet from outside and conveying the sheet;

sheet folding means for folding the sheet conveyed by the receiving means in two at a

center portion thereof in a direction the sheet is conveyed so as to be a folded sheet and conveying the folded sheet with the folded portion thereof being a leading edge of the folded sheet;

  
jogging means including a jogging table, for receiving and jogging the folded sheet, conveyed by the folding means, one after another, so as to be stacked into a stack of folded sheets on the jogging table;

binding means for binding the stack of folded sheets stacked on the jogging table at an edge portion of the stack of folded sheets at the side where the folded portion of each folded sheet of the stack of folded sheets is located, while the stack of folded sheets are on the jogging table; and

discharging means for discharging the bound stack of folded sheets.

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33. (Twice Amended) A sheet folding and jogging apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a sheet from outside and conveying the sheet;

  
folding means for folding the sheet conveyed by the receiving means in two at a center portion thereof in a direction the sheet is conveyed so as to be a folded sheet, and conveying the folded sheet with the folded portion thereof being a leading edge of the folded sheet;

jogging means including a jogging table, for receiving and jogging the folded sheet, conveyed by the folding means, one after another, so as to be stacked into a stack of folded sheets on the jogging table; and

leading edge stopping means configured to stop the folded sheet at the folded portion leading edge so that the folded sheet is jogged with respect to the folded portion leading edge thereof.

34. (Amended) An image forming and binding system, comprising:

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data generating means for generating and transmitting image or document data with page and sheet size information and printing and binding instructions thereof; and

image forming means for forming images of the image or document data received from the data generating means on both sides of a sheet according to the page and sheet size information and the printing and binding instructions and discharge the sheet,

wherein the image forming means forms a second page image and a third page image of images of four pages on a first side of the sheet, which upwardly faces when the sheet is exited from the image forming means, with the second page image at a leading edge side of the sheet in a direction the sheet is conveyed, and a first page image and a fourth page image of the images of four pages on a second side of the sheet, which downwardly faces when the sheet is exited from the image forming means, with the first page image at the leading edge side of the sheet in the direction the sheet is conveyed, and

wherein the image formation controlling means controls the image forming means to form the images of the image or document data starting from last four pages of the image or document data,

the system further including,

a binding apparatus including,

controlling means for controlling an operation of the binding apparatus  
the controlling means receiving the sheet size information and the binding instruction from the data generating means;

receiving means for receiving and conveying the sheet discharged by the image forming means;

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folding means for folding the sheet conveyed by the receiving means in two at a center portion thereon in the direction the sheet is conveyed according to the sheet size information and for conveying the folded sheet;

jogging means including a jogging table, for receiving and jogging the folded sheet conveyed by the folding means one after another into a stack of folded sheets on the jogging table according to the sheet size information;

binding means for binding the stack of folded sheets stacked on the jogging table at an edge portion of the stack of folded sheets at the side where the folded portion of each folded sheet of the stack of folded sheets is located according to the binding instruction, while the stack of folded sheets are on the jogging table; and

discharging means for discharging the bound stack of folded sheets.

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#### REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 14, 2003. Claims 1-53 are pending in this application, with claims 35-53 having been withdrawn from consideration. Of the claims presently under consideration, claims 1, 14, 15, 20 and 30-34 are in independent form. By the present Amendment, claims 1, 20, 30, 31, 33 and 34 have been amended. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.